



COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Notice of Intent to Renew Collection

3038-0092, Customer Clearing Documentation and Timing of Acceptance for Clearing

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“Commission” or “CFTC”) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the extension of the collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (“PRA”), Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the *Federal Register* concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information, and to allow 60 days for public comment. This notice solicits comments on the obligation to maintain records related to clearing documentation between the customer and the customer’s clearing member.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by OMB Control No. 3038-0092 by any of the following methods:

- The Agency’s Web site, at <http://comments.cftc.gov/>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments through the web site.

- Mail: Christopher Kirkpatrick, Secretary of the Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581.

- Hand Delivery/Courier: Same as Mail above.

Please submit your comments using only one method. All comments must be submitted in English, or if not, accompanied by an English translation. Comments will be posted as received to <http://www.cftc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Megan Wallace, Senior Special Counsel, Division of Clearing and Risk, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, (202) 418-5150; email: mwallace@cftc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. “Collection of Information” is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3 and includes agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A), requires Federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information, before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, the Commission is publishing notice of the proposed extension of the collection of information listed below. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Title: Customer Clearing Documentation and Timing of Acceptance for Clearing (OMB Control No. 3038–0092). This is a request for extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Section 4d(c) of the Commodity Exchange Act (“CEA”), as amended by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (“Dodd-Frank Act”), directs the Commission to require futures commission merchants (“FCMs”) to implement conflict of interest procedures that address such issues the Commission determines to be appropriate. Similarly, section 4s(j)(5) of the CEA, as added by the Dodd-Frank Act, requires swap dealers (“SDs”) and major swap participants (“MSPs”) to implement conflict of interest procedures that address such issues the Commission determines to be appropriate. Section 4s(j)(5) also requires SDs and MSPs to ensure that any persons providing clearing activities or making determinations as to accepting clearing customers are separated by appropriate informational partitions from persons whose involvement in pricing, trading, or clearing activities might bias their judgment or contravene the core principle of open access. Section 4s(j)(6) of the CEA prohibits a SD or MSP from adopting any process or taking any action that results in any unreasonable restraint on trade or imposes any material anticompetitive burden on trading or clearing, unless necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of the Act. Section 2(h)(1)(B)(ii) of the CEA requires that derivatives clearing organization (“DCOs”) rules provide for the nondiscriminatory clearing of swaps executed bilaterally or through an unaffiliated designated contract market or swap execution facility.

To address these provisions, the Commission promulgated regulations that prohibit arrangements involving FCMs, SDs, MSPs, and DCOs that would (a) disclose to

an FCM, SD, or MSP the identity of a customer's original executing counterparty (§§ 1.72(a), 23.608(a), and 39.12(a)(1)(vi)); (b) limit the number of counterparties with whom a customer may enter into a trade (§§ 1.72(b), 23.608(b), and 39.12(a)(1)(vi)); (c) restrict the size of the position a customer may take with any individual counterparty, apart from an overall credit limit for all positions held by the customer at the FCM (§§ 1.72(c), 23.608(c), and 39.12(a)(1)(vi)); (d) impair a customer's access to execution of a trade on terms that have a reasonable relationship to the best terms available (§§ 1.72(d), 23.608(d), and 39.12(a)(1)(vi)); or (e) prevent compliance with specified time frames for acceptance of trades into clearing set forth in 1.74(b), 23.610(b), or 39.12(b)(7) (§§ 1.72(e), 23.608(e), and 39.12(a)(1)(vi)). Additionally, the Commission requires, through regulation 39.12(b)(7)(i)(B), DCOs to coordinate with clearing members to establish prompt processing of trades. Regulations 1.74(a) and 23.610(a) require reciprocal coordination by FCMs, SDs, and MSPs that are clearing members.

Under the above regulations, SDs, MSPs, FCMs, and DCOs are required to develop and maintain written customer clearing documentation and trade processing procedures. Maintenance of contracts, policies, and procedures is prudent business practice. All SDs, MSPs, FCMs, and DCOs maintain documentation consistent with these regulations. The regulations are crucial both for effective risk management and for the efficient operation of trading venues among SDs, MSPs, FCMs, and DCOs. Each of these entities has a general recordkeeping obligation for these requirements under the Commission's regulations (§ 39.20 for DCOs; § 23.606 for SDs and MSPs; and § 1.73 for FCMs).

As discussed further below, the information collection burden arising from the regulations primarily is restricted to the costs associated with the affected registrants' obligation to maintain records related to clearing documentation between the customer and the customer's clearing member, and trade processing procedures between DCOs and FCMs, SDs, and MSPs. The information collection obligations are necessary to implement certain provisions of the CEA, including ensuring that registrants exercise effective risk management and for the efficient operation of trading venues among swap dealers, major swap participants, futures commission merchants, and derivatives clearing organizations.

With respect to the collection of information, the CFTC invites comments on:

- Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information will have a practical use;
- The accuracy of the Commission's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Ways to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden of collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology; *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. If you wish the Commission to consider information that you believe is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, a petition for confidential treatment of the exempt information may be submitted according to the procedures established in section 145.9 of the Commission's regulations.¹

The Commission reserves the right, but shall have no obligation, to review, pre-screen, filter, redact, refuse or remove any or all of your submission from <http://www.cftc.gov> that it may deem to be inappropriate for publication, such as obscene language. All submissions that have been redacted or removed that contain comments on the merits of the Information Collection Request will be retained in the public comment file and will be considered as required under the Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws, and may be accessible under the Freedom of Information Act.

Burden Statement: The Commission is revising its estimate of the burden for this collection, which include 107 Swap Dealers, Major Swap Participants, 61 Futures Commission Merchants, and 15 Derivatives Clearing Organizations. The respondent burden for this collection is estimated to be as follows:

Respondents/Affected Entities: 183.

Estimated Average Burden Hours per Respondent: 40.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 7320.

Frequency of collection: Daily, annual, and as needed.

There are no capital costs or operating and maintenance costs associated with this collection.

¹ 17 CFR 145.9.

(Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*)

Dated: August 11, 2020.

Robert Sidman,

Deputy Secretary of the Commission.

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